



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

DANIEL H. JOHNSON
SECRETARY

February 12, 2026

MEMORANDUM TO: Division Environmental and Construction Units

FROM: *MAT* Michael A. Turchy, ECAP Group Leader
Environmental Analysis Unit

SUBJECT: Environmental Permits for the Replacement of:
Buncombe 424 over Flat Creek on SR 2786 (Flat Creek Road) Division 13,
WBS DF18313.2011444

Please find enclosed the following permits for this project:

Agency	Permit Type	Expiration
US Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Clean Water Act Permit	Nationwide Permit 3 Action ID: SAW-2025-00059 Dated February 12, 2026	March 14, 2026*
NC Division of Water Resources Section 401 Water Quality Certification	Individual Water Quality Certification Project ID: 20260032 Dated January 22, 2026	expires with above Permit

Work is authorized by the above-referenced documents and must be accomplished in strict accordance with the permitted plans.

The Environmental Coordination and Permitting Group (ECAP) or the Division Environmental Office must be consulted if any deviation from the permit(s) or accompanying drawings is required.

*All 404 Nationwide Permits expire on March 14, 2026. Since new Nationwide Permits are not issued until the previous set expires, a one-year period exists between March 14, 2026, and March 14, 2027 to complete construction, or renew the permit under the new Nationwide Permit.

ECAP will coordinate with Division Environmental Staff to determine project completion timelines and initiate the renewal process, if necessary.

404 Permit (USACE)



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, WILMINGTON DISTRICT
151 Patton Avenue, Room 208
Asheville, NC 28801-5006

February 12, 2026

Regulatory Division
SAW-2026-00059

North Carolina Department of Transportation
Attn: Mr. Michael A. Turchy
Environmental Coordination and Permitting Group Leader
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1598
Sent Via Email: maturchy@ncdot.gov

Dear Mr. Turchy,

This letter is in response to the application you submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Wilmington District, WRDA/Transportation Branch on January 12, 2026, for a Department of the Army general permit verification to replace a bridge that was damaged by **Hurricane Helene**. This project will replace **Bridge No. 424** over Flat Creek on SR 2786 in Buncombe County, North Carolina (35.5447, -82.3116) and has been assigned file number SAW-2026-00059. In order to perform this work, NCDOT proposes to conduct the following activities in waters of the U.S.:

Summary of Proposed Impacts

Impact ID #	NWP / GP #	Open Water (ac)		Wetland (ac)		Stream (If)	
		Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent
Site 1 (Flat Creek)	<u>NWP 3</u>					96' / detour and dewatering	
						80' / dewatering and construction access	41' / bank stabilization
Impact Totals		0	0	0	0	176'	41'
Total Loss of waters of the U.S. (wetlands and/or open waters)		0	Total Loss of waters of the U.S.		0		

We have reviewed the proposed activities in waters of the U.S. and have determined that these activities are authorized by Nationwide Permit (NWP) 3 pursuant to authorities under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C § 1344). The proposed work must be accomplished in strict accordance with the following:

- enclosed terms, general conditions, and regional conditions of NWP 3
- special conditions of the verification letter (see below)
- information in the PCN and attachments
- enclosed plans

If the extent of the project area and/or nature of the authorized impacts to waters are modified, a request detailing the proposed changes must be submitted to this office for written approval before work is initiated. Any deviation from the terms and conditions of the permit, the special conditions of this letter, the information contained in the PCN, or your submitted plans, may subject the permittee to enforcement action.

This verification is valid until **March 14, 2026**, unless the subject NWP is suspended, revoked, or is modified prior to that date such that the activity no longer complies with the terms and conditions of the NWP.

Project Specific Special Conditions:

1. This verification letter does not authorize you to take a federally listed species. In order to legally take a federally listed species, you must have separate authorization under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (e.g., an ESA Section 10 permit, or a Biological Opinion (BO) under ESA Section 7, with "incidental take" provisions with which you must comply). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued a document titled, "Biological and Conference Opinions and Informal Consultations – Batch Format, Replace Multiple Crossing Structures Destroyed by Tropical Storm Helene in Buncombe, Madison, McDowell, Rutherford, and Yancey Counties, North Carolina, Service Log #25-236 through 25-248" on July 8, 2025. This document contains mandatory terms and conditions to implement the reasonable and prudent measures that are associated with incidental take for this project. Your authorization under this verification letter and NWP 3 is conditional upon your compliance with the mandatory terms and conditions associated with incidental take listed in this document for this project. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions associated with incidental take detailed in this document, where a take of a federally listed species occurs, would constitute an unauthorized take, and it would also constitute non-compliance with your verification letter and NWP 3. The USFWS is the appropriate authority to determine compliance with the terms and conditions of its Opinion and with the ESA.

2. The permittee shall comply with conditions #1-6 in the attached letter from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission dated January 15, 2026.

3. The permittee shall require its contractors and/or agents to comply with the terms and conditions of this authorization letter in the construction and maintenance of this project and shall provide each of its contractors and/or agents associated with the construction or maintenance of this project with a copy of this authorization letter, all conditions, and any authorized modifications. A copy of this authorization letter, all conditions, and any authorized modifications, shall be available at the project site during construction and maintenance of this project.

This general permit verification and any associated authorizations does not preclude the necessity to obtain any other Federal, State, or local permits, licenses, and/or certifications, which may be required.

If you have any questions related to this verification or have issues accessing documents referenced in this letter, please contact Lori Beckwith, Regulatory Project Manager of the WRDA/Transportation Branch at 828-230-0483, by mail at the above address, or by email at loretta.a.beckwith@usace.army.mil. Please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey located at <https://regulatory.ops.usace.army.mil/customer-service-survey/>.

Sincerely,



M. Scott Jones, PWS
WRDA / Transportation Branch Chief
USACE, Wilmington District

Enclosures

designation, these terms and conditions will be non-discretionary.

1. NCDOT shall adhere to all measures as listed in the Avoidance and Minimization and Conservation Measures section as summarized in this Opinion.
2. The NCDOT will immediately inform the Service if the amount or extent of incidental take in the incidental take statement is exceeded.
3. When incidental take is anticipated, the Terms and Conditions must include provisions for monitoring project activities to determine the actual project effects on listed fish or wildlife species (50 CFR §402.14(i)(3)). In order to monitor the impact of incidental take, the NDOT must report the action impacts on the species to the Service according to the following:
 - a. The NCDOT will submit a report each year not later than September 30 identifying, per individual project (via Service Log # and NCDOT identifiers), the following for the preceding calendar year ending December 31:
 - i. Acreage of in-water impacts, if LAA for Appalachian elktoe.
 - ii. Acreage and dates of tree removal (if any), if LAA for bats (excepting gray bat).
 - iii. Dates of structure removal (if any), if LAA for bats.
 - iv. List of implemented AMMs and BMPs [as listed in Section 2.3].

8. Conservation Recommendations

Section 7(a)(1) of the Endangered Species ESA directs Federal agencies to use their authorities to further the purposes of the Endangered Species ESA by carrying out conservation programs for the benefit of endangered and threatened species. Conservation recommendations are discretionary agency activities to minimize or avoid adverse effects of a proposed action on listed species or critical habitat, to help implement recovery plans, or to develop information.

- **Eastern Hellbender:** Proximity to eastern hellbender occurrence records was noted for the following crossing structures: Buncombe County structures 308 (temp), 380 (temp), Madison County structure 304 (temp), and Yancey County structures 009, 056, 157, 192, 193, 233. Ahead of work at these locations, coordinate with the NCWRC and the Service to survey for/relocate any hellbender that may be within the action area and vulnerable to impacts from project work.
- **State Species of Concern:** Close proximity to several aquatic species with North Carolina designations was noted for crossing structures: 115 and 380 (temp) in Buncombe County; 058 in McDowell County; 036 in Rutherford County; and 009 and 056 in Yancey County. While these species are not currently afforded legal protection under the ESA, we recommend the most protective sediment and erosion control measures possible be used in waters occupied by these species, and we encourage you to coordinate any relocation efforts of such species with the NCWRC.
- **Refueling and Materials Storage:** Refuel construction equipment outside the 100-year floodplain or at least 200 feet from all water bodies (whichever distance is greater) and protected with secondary containment. Store hazardous materials, fuel, lubricating oils, or other chemicals outside the 100-year floodplain or at least 200 feet from all water bodies (whichever distance is greater).
- **Provide Terrestrial Wildlife Passage:** Where riparian corridors suitable for wildlife movement occur adjacent to a project, a spanning structure that also spans a portion of the floodplain and provides or maintains a riprap-free level path underneath for wildlife passage would provide a safer roadway and facilitate wildlife passage. A 10-foot strip may be ideal, though smaller widths can also be beneficial. Alternatively, a “wildlife path” can be constructed with a top-dressing of finer stone (such as smaller aggregate or on-site alluvial material) to fill riprap voids if full bank plating is required. If a multi-barrel culvert is used, the low flow barrel(s) should accommodate the entire stream width and the other barrel should have sills to the floodplain level and be back-filled to

- Aquatic AMM Equipment – Heavy machinery will not be utilized within the waterbody. Additionally, staging and storage areas for equipment and materials will be managed in such a way to ensure that potential spills and leaks do not have access to the waterbody.
- Aquatic AMM Temporary and Permanent Fill – Any temporary fill (i.e. causeways) or permanent (i.e. bents/piers) fill in excess of what was previously present will be avoided and minimized to the maximum extent possible.
- Aquatic AMM Abutments - Existing abutments will be completely removed unless removal results in destabilizing of banks or increases the adverse effect to listed/proposed aquatic species.
- Aquatic AMM Deck Drains – Deck drains that empty directly to the waterbody below will not be implemented on new bridge designs. Surface water drainage transport will be designed to incorporate improved treatment prior to drainage entering the waterbody.
- Aquatic AMM Erosion Control Matting – Coir fiber matting will be utilized instead of plastic or other synthetic matting.

Bats - General AMMs will minimize impacts to listed/proposed bats. **To the maximum extent possible**, the following AMMs will also be incorporated into project work – though implementation of all bat AMMs below cannot be guaranteed at the time of this consultation, given the scale, scope, and timeline constraints addressed previously:

- Bat AMM Noise - Percussive activities will occur only after the tree clearing within the action area has been completed, helping to reduce the exposure of any tree-roosting bats within the action area to high decibel noise.
- Bat AMM Lighting - No new lighting will be added to the action area. Any lighting needed for night work will be directed at the work area and shielded from surrounding waters/landscape, only on when needed, no brighter than necessary, and blue light emissions will be limited.
- Bat AMM Riparian Planting – Disturbed riparian areas will be replanted with native, fast-growing tree and shrub species where feasible, with the understanding that plantings likely cannot be done in utility/drainage/construction easements.

2.3.2 Conservation Measures (CMs)

CMs represent actions, pledged in the project description, that the action agency will implement to further the recovery of the species under review. The beneficial effects of CMs are considered in making determinations of whether the projects will jeopardize the species under consideration in this document.

Aquatic CM: Aquatics Contribution - For individual bridge projects that are LAA aquatic species, the NCDOT will contribute \$10,000 for each project structure to the N.C. Nongame Aquatic Species Fund.

Aquatic CM: Relocation - For projects that are LAA aquatic species, prior to project construction, a Service Asheville Field Office NCDOT liaison and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission NCDOT liaison will be contacted to discuss the potential for aquatic species relocation, if applicable and practicable.



☒ North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission ☒

M. Kyle Briggs, Executive Director

January 15, 2026

Loretta Beckwith
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Asheville Regulatory Field Office
151 Patton Avenue, Room 208
Asheville, NC 28801

Amy Annino
401 and Buffer Transportation Permitting Branch
North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
2090 U.S. 70 Highway, Swannanoa, NC 28778-8211

SUBJECT: Comments on Application for Replacement of Bridge 424 over Flat Creek, Buncombe County (**DF18313.2011444**), DWR 20260032 ver.1

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) applied for a 404 Permit and 401 Certification for the subject project. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission's (NCWRC) comments are offered to help conserve the wildlife resources affected by the project and to promote wildlife-based recreation in accordance with applicable provisions of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 U.S.C. 466 et seq.) and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661-667d).

The project will replace a bridge over Flat Creek that was damaged by flooding from Hurricane Helene. The new structure will be a 50-foot span bridge, presumably of a cored slab design. There will be temporary pipes added to Flat Creek adjacent to the bridge footprint to maintain traffic. The application also notes rip rap stabilization which may be applied along the new bridge abutments.

NCWRC biologists sampled the Flat Creek on May and June 2025 and found a few wild Rainbow Trout (*Onchorynchus mykiss*) including some juveniles in the sample downstream of the project site. Spawning habitat is poor but may be improving in Flat Creek. Therefore, as noted in scoping comments for this bridge project, the upcoming moratoria for Rainbow Trout (January 1, 2027 to April 15, 2027, and subsequent moratorium periods), should be adhered to for instream disturbance from the bridge work. An

example of instream work proposed with this project is temporary detour pipe/road construction or removal.

The NCWRC requests that the following conditions be included in authorizations to help conserve trout and other aquatic resources affected by the project:

1. The upcoming moratoria for Rainbow Trout (January 1, 2027 to April 15, 2027, and subsequent moratorium periods), should be adhered to for instream disturbance from the bridge work. An example of instream work proposed with this project is temporary detour pipe/road construction or removal..
2. Applicable measures from the current *NCDOT Erosion and Sediment Control Design and Construction Manual* should be adhered to.
3. In accordance with standard GC conditions, matting used in riparian areas should not contain nylon mesh because it entangles and kills wildlife. Coir matting should be used on disturbed stream banks that are steep or susceptible to high water. Matting should be anchored with wooden stakes according to NCDOT specifications.
4. Heavy equipment needs to be well-maintained and concrete pouring needs to be closely monitored to avoid and quickly mitigate fuel, fluid, or wet concrete losses in or near streams.
5. Sandbags, rock berms, cofferdams, or other diversion structures should be used where excavation or other periods of extended stream disturbance has the potential for downstream sedimentation.
6. Areas of temporary disturbance of the stream channel (e.g on-site detours or diversion channels) should be restored to stable and reference conditions (width, depth, and pattern). Reference conditions can be approximated by observing conditions upstream or downstream that appear stable, or by consulting available regional curve information.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide recommendations on this project. Please contact me at david.mchenry@ncwildlife.gov or (828) 476-1966 if you have any questions about these comments.

Sincerely,



Dave McHenry, NCWRC Western DOT Coordinator

cc: Katrina Clough, NCDOT Division 14 PDEA Engineer
 Yates Allen, NCDOT Division 14 Environmental Specialist II
 Michael Turchy, NCDOT ECAP

401

Certification
(NCDWR)

JOSH STEIN
Governor

D. REID WILSON
Secretary

RICHARD E. ROGERS, JR.
Director



January 22, 2026

DWR # 20260032
Buncombe County

North Carolina Department of Transportation
Attn: Michael Turchy
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina, 27699

Delivered via email to: maturchy@ncdot.gov

Subject: Approval of Individual 401 Water Quality Certification
Replacement of Bridge 424 over Flat Creek on SR 2786 (Flat Creek
Road) in Buncombe County, WBS DF18313.2011444

Location: 35.544741, -82.311673

Dear Mr. Michael Turchy:

Attached hereto is a copy of Certification No. WQC008654 issued to Michael Turchy and the North Carolina Department of Transportation, dated January 22, 2026. This approval is for the purpose and design described in your application.

This Water Quality Certification does not relieve the Permittee of the responsibility to obtain all other required Federal, State, or Local approvals before proceeding with the project, including those required by, but not limited to, Sediment and Erosion Control, Non-Discharge, Water Supply Watershed, and Trout Buffer regulations.

Upon the presentation of proper credentials, the Division of Water Resources (Division) may inspect the property.

This Water Quality Certification shall expire on the same day as the expiration date of the corresponding Section 404 Permit that is current at the time this Certification is issued. The conditions shall remain in effect for the life of the project, regardless of the expiration date of this Water Quality Certification.

Non-compliance with or violation of the conditions herein set forth may result in revocation of this Water Quality Certification for the project and may also result in criminal and/or civil penalties.



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality | Division of Water Resources
512 North Salisbury Street | 1617 Mail Service Center | Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1617
919.707.9000

This approval and its conditions are final and binding unless contested [G.S. 143-215.5].

This Certification can be contested as provided in Chapter 150B of the North Carolina General Statutes by filing a Petition for a Contested Case Hearing (Petition) with the North Carolina Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) **within sixty (60) calendar days**. Requirements for filing a Petition are set forth in Chapter 150B of the North Carolina General Statutes and Title 26 of the North Carolina Administrative Code. Additional information regarding requirements for filing a Petition and Petition forms may be accessed at <https://www.oah.nc.gov> or by calling the OAH Clerk's Office at (919) 431-3000.

A party filing a Petition must serve a copy of the Petition on:

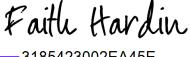
Dan Hirschman, General Counsel
Department of Environmental Quality
1601 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1601

If the party filing the Petition is not the Permittee, then the party must also serve the recipient of the Certification in accordance with N.C.G.S. 150B-23(a).

This letter completes the Division's review under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and 15A NCAC 02H .0500. Please contact Amy Annino at 828-296-4668 or amy.annino@deq.nc.gov if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Signed by:


3185423002EA45E...
Faith Hardin, Supervisor
401 & Buffer Transportation Permitting Branch

Electronic cc: Lori Beckwith, USACE Asheville Regulatory Field Office
Mike Sanderson, Division 13
Holland Youngman, USFWS
Dave McHenry, NCWRC
DWR 401 & Buffer Permitting Branch Electronic file

Filename: 20260032_Bridge 424 on SR2786 _APPRVL_20260122.docx



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality | Division of Water Resources
512 North Salisbury Street | 1617 Mail Service Center | Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1617
919.707.9000

NORTH CAROLINA 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

CERTIFICATION #WQC008654 is issued in conformity with the requirements of Section 401, Public Laws 92-500 and 95-217 of the United States and subject to North Carolina's Regulations in 15 NCAC 02H .0500 and 15A NCAC 02B .0200, to Mr. Michael Turchy and the North Carolina Department of Transportation, who have authorization for the impacts listed below, as described within your application received by the N.C. Division of Water Resources (Division) on January 11, 2026, and by Public Notice issued by the Division on January 12, 2026, and within the *Reasonable Period of Time* pursuant to 40 CFR Part 121.6.

The State of North Carolina certifies that this activity will comply with water quality requirements and the applicable portions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, 307 of the Public Laws 92-500 and PL 95-217 if conducted in accordance with the application, the supporting documentation, and conditions hereinafter set forth.

The following impacts are hereby approved. No other impacts are approved, including incidental impacts. [15A NCAC 02H .0506(b)]

Stream Impacts in the French Broad River Basin

Site	Permanent Fill in Perennial Stream (linear feet)	Temporary Fill in Perennial Stream (linear feet)	Total Stream Impact (linear feet)	Stream Impacts Requiring Mitigation (linear feet)
Site 1: Temp Dewatering - detour	-	96	96	0
Site 2: Temp Dewatering - bridge	-	80	80	0
Site 3: Bank Stabilization	41	-	41	0
Totals:	41	176	217	0

Total Stream Impact for Project: 176 linear feet temporary and 41 linear feet permanent

This approval requires you to follow the conditions listed in the Certification below.

CONDITIONS OF CERTIFICATION [15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)]:

Project Specific Conditions

1. The NCDOT Division Environmental Officer or Environmental Assistant will conduct a pre-construction meeting with all appropriate staff to ensure that the project supervisor and essential staff understand the potential issues with the stream at the permitted site. NCDWR staff shall be invited to the pre-construction meeting. [15A NCAC 02H.0506(b)(2) and (b)(3)]



2. The permittee shall use Design Standards in Sensitive Watersheds in areas draining to Trout waters. [15A NCAC 4B.0124(a)-(e)]
3. NCDOT shall be in compliance with the NCS00250 issued to the NCDOT, including the applicable requirements of the NCG01000. Please note the extra protections for the sensitive watersheds.
4. The permittee will not need to adhere to in-water work moratoria (including the use of pile driving or vibration techniques), as the NC Wildlife Resources Commission waived the current January 1, 2026 to April 15, 2026 trout moratorium. However, the NCWRC requires that subsequent January 1 to April 15 moratoria should be adhered to for instream disturbance with bridge construction for this project.
5. The post-construction removal of any temporary bridge structures must return the project site to its preconstruction contours and elevations. The impacted areas shall be revegetated with appropriate native species. [15A NCAC 02H .0506(b)(2)]
6. As a condition of this 401 Water Quality Certification, the bridge demolition and construction must be accomplished in strict compliance with the most recent version of NCDOT's Best Management Practices for Construction and Maintenance Activities. [15A NCAC 02H .0507(d)(2) and 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b)(5)]
7. Bridge deck drains shall not discharge directly into the stream. Stormwater shall be directed across the bridge and pre-treated through site-appropriate means (grassed swales, pre-formed scour holes, vegetated buffers, etc.) before entering the stream. To meet the requirements of NCDOT's NPDES permit NCS0000250, please refer to the most recent version of the North Carolina Department of Transportation Stormwater Best Management Practices Toolbox manual for approved measures. [15A NCAC 02H .0507(d)(2) and 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b)(5)]
8. Bridge piles and bents shall be constructed using driven piles (hammer or vibratory) or drilled shaft construction methods. More specifically, jetting or other methods of pile driving are prohibited without prior written approval from the NCDWR first. [15A NCAC 02H.0506(b)(2)]
9. No drill slurry or water that has been in contact with uncured concrete shall be allowed to enter surface waters. This water shall be captured, treated, and disposed of properly. [15A NCAC 02H .0506(b)(3)]
10. All bridge construction shall be performed from the existing bridge, temporary work bridges, temporary causeways, or floating or sunken barges. If work conditions require barges, they shall be floated into position and then sunk. The barges shall not be sunk and then dragged into position. Under no circumstances should barges be dragged along the bottom of the surface water. [15A NCAC 02H .0506(b)(3)]



General Conditions

1. Unless otherwise approved in this certification, placement of culverts and other structures in open waters and streams shall be placed below the elevation of the streambed by one foot for all culverts with a diameter greater than 48 inches, and 20 percent of the culvert diameter for culverts having a diameter less than 48 inches, to allow low flow passage of water and aquatic life. Design and placement of culverts and other structures including temporary erosion control measures shall not be conducted in a manner that may result in dis-equilibrium of wetlands or streambeds or banks, adjacent to or upstream and downstream of the above structures. The applicant is required to provide evidence that the equilibrium is being maintained if requested in writing by NCDWR. If this condition is unable to be met due to bedrock or other limiting features encountered during construction, please contact NCDWR for guidance on how to proceed and to determine whether or not a permit modification will be required. [15A NCAC 02H.0506(b)(2)]
2. If concrete is used during construction, a dry work area shall be maintained to prevent direct contact between curing concrete and stream water. Water that inadvertently contacts uncured concrete shall not be discharged to surface waters due to the potential for elevated pH and possible aquatic life and fish kills. [15A NCAC 02B.0200]
3. For all streams being impacted due to site dewatering activities, the site shall be graded to its preconstruction contours and revegetated with appropriate native species. [15A NCAC 02H.0506(b)(2)]
4. During the construction of the project, no staging of equipment of any kind is permitted in waters of the state or protected riparian buffers. [15A NCAC 02H.0506(b)(2)]
5. The dimension, pattern and profile of the stream above and below the crossing shall not be modified. Disturbed floodplains and streams shall be restored to natural geomorphic conditions. [15A NCAC 02H.0506(b)(2)]
6. The use of rip-rap above the Normal High Water Mark shall be minimized. Any rip-rap placed for stream stabilization shall be placed in stream channels in such a manner that it does not impede aquatic life passage. [15A NCAC 02H.0506(b)(2)]
7. The Permittee shall ensure that the final design drawings adhere to the permit and to the permit drawings submitted for approval. [15A NCAC 02H .0507 (c) and 15A NCAC 02H .0506 (b)(2) and (c)(2)]
8. All work in or adjacent to stream waters shall be conducted in a dry work area. Approved BMP measures from the most current version of NCDOT Construction and Maintenance Activities



manual such as sandbags, rock berms, cofferdams and other diversion structures shall be used to prevent excavation in flowing water. [15A NCAC 02H.0506(b)(3) and (c)(3)]

9. Heavy equipment shall be operated from the banks rather than in the stream channel in order to minimize sedimentation and reduce the introduction of other pollutants into the stream. [15A NCAC 02H.0506(b)(3)]
10. All mechanized equipment operated near surface waters must be regularly inspected and maintained to prevent contamination of stream waters from fuels, lubricants, hydraulic fluids, or other toxic materials. [15A NCAC 02H.0506(b)(3)]
11. No rock, sand or other materials shall be dredged from the stream channel except where authorized by this certification. [15A NCAC 02H.0506(b)(3)]
12. Discharging hydroseed mixtures and washing out hydroseeders and other equipment in or adjacent to surface waters is prohibited. [15A NCAC 02H.0506(b)(3)]
13. The permittee and its authorized agents shall conduct its activities in a manner consistent with State water quality standards (including any requirements resulting from compliance with §303(d) of the Clean Water Act) and any other appropriate requirements of State and Federal law. If the NCDWR determines that such standards or laws are not being met (including the failure to sustain a designated or achieved use) or that State or federal law is being violated, or that further conditions are necessary to assure compliance, the NCDWR may reevaluate and modify this certification. [15A NCAC 02B.0200]
14. All fill slopes located in jurisdictional wetlands shall be placed at slopes no flatter than 3:1, unless otherwise authorized by this certification. [15A NCAC 02H.0506(b)(2)]
15. A copy of this Water Quality Certification shall be maintained on the construction site at all times. In addition, the Water Quality Certification and all subsequent modifications, if any, shall be maintained with the Division Engineer and the on-site project manager. [15A NCAC 02H .0507(c) and 15A NCAC 02H .0506 (b)(2) and (c)(2)]
16. The outside buffer, wetland or water boundary located within the construction corridor approved by this authorization, including all non-commercial borrow and waste sites associated with the project, shall be clearly marked by highly visible fencing prior to any land disturbing activities. Impacts to areas within the fencing are prohibited unless otherwise authorized by this certification. [15A NCAC 02H.0501 and .0502]
17. The Permittee shall report any violations of this certification to the Division of Water Resources within 24 hours of discovery. [15A NCAC 02B.0506(b)(2)]



18. Upon completion of the project (including any impacts at associated borrow or waste sites), the NCDOT Division Engineer (or whomever is the authorized agent if a non-NCDOT project) shall complete and return the "Certification of Completion Form" to notify the NCDWR when all work included in the 401 Certification has been completed. [15A NCAC 02H.0507]
19. Native riparian vegetation (i.e., herbaceous, trees, and shrubs native to your geographic region) must be reestablished in the riparian areas within the construction limits of the project by the end of the growing season following completion of construction. [15A NCAC 02B.0506(b)(2)]
20. There shall be no excavation from, or waste disposal into, jurisdictional wetlands or waters associated with this permit without appropriate modification. Should waste or borrow sites, or access roads to waste or borrow sites, be located in wetlands or streams, compensatory mitigation will be required since that is a direct impact from road construction activities. [15A NCAC 02H.0506(b)(3) and (c)(3)]
21. Erosion control matting that incorporates plastic mesh and/or plastic twine shall not be used along streambanks or within jurisdictional wetlands. [15A NCAC 2H.0506; 15A NCAC 2H.0507]
22. Erosion and sediment control practices must be in full compliance with all specifications governing the proper design, installation and operation and maintenance of such Best Management Practices in order to protect surface waters standards [15A NCAC 02H.0506(b)(3)]:
 - a. The erosion and sediment control measures for the project must be designed, installed, operated, and maintained in accordance with the most recent version of the North Carolina Sediment and Erosion Control Planning and Design Manual.
 - b. The design, installation, operation, and maintenance of the sediment and erosion control measures must be such that they equal, or exceed, the requirements specified in the most recent version of the North Carolina Sediment and Erosion Control Manual. The devices shall be maintained on all construction sites, borrow sites, and waste pile (spoil) projects, including contractor-owned or leased borrow pits associated with the project.
 - c. For borrow pit sites, the erosion and sediment control measures must be designed, installed, operated, and maintained in accordance with the most recent version of the North Carolina Surface Mining Manual.
 - d. The reclamation measures and implementation must comply with the reclamation in accordance with the requirements of the Sedimentation Pollution Control Act.
23. Sediment and erosion control measures shall not be placed in wetlands or surface waters without prior approval from DWR. [15A NCAC 02H.0506(b)(3)]



24. DWR approves the stormwater drainage design as shown in the 401 application, under the assumption that it meets the requirements of the NCDOT NPDES permit #NCS000250. These plans are enforceable by DWR. Changes to the approved plans are prohibited without prior approval from DWR. If sediment or other pollutants are found to be discharged from the stormwater outfalls, DWR may take enforcement action. NCDOT and DWR shall assess the damage to water quality standards and implement an appropriate action plan to address the impacts. The action plan shall provide an appropriate timeline for implementation as agreed upon by both DWR and NCDOT. This may require NCDOT to obtain a modification to its current 401 and 404 permits.

This Water Quality Certification shall expire on the same day as the expiration date of the corresponding Section 404 Permit that is current at the time this Certification is issued. The conditions shall remain in effect for the life of the project, regardless of the expiration date of this Water Quality Certification.

This, the 22nd day of January 2026

Signed by:



3185423002EA45E...

Faith Hardin, Supervisor
401 & Buffer Transportation Permitting Branch



Permitted Drawings



(Version 3.02; Released April 23, 2024)

North Carolina Department of Transportation

Highway Stormwater Program
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOR NCDOT PROJECTS



Page 1 of 2

WBS Element: TIP/Proj No: DF18313.2011444 County(ies): Buncombe

General Project Information

WBS Element: TIP Number: DF18313.2011444 Project Type: Bridge Replacement Date: 01/05/2025

NCDOT Contact: Justin R. Rice, EI Contractor / Designer: Angela B. Pridgen, PE

Address:	20 Old 74 Asheville, NC 28803	Phone:	919-420-7660	Email:	One Glenwood Ave. Suite 900 Raleigh, NC 27603

Address:	20 Old 74 Asheville, NC 28803	Phone:	919-420-7660	Email:	apridgen@gfnet.com
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City/Town:	Black Mountain	County(ies):	Buncombe		
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River Basin(s):	Broad	CAMA County?	No		
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Wetlands within Project Limits?	No				
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Project Description

Project Length (lin. miles or feet):	0.07	Surrounding Land Use:	Rural wooded		
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Proposed Project

Existing Site

Project Built-Upon Area (ac.)	0.2	ac.	0.1	ac.	
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Typical Cross Section Description:	Proposed project is a 20', 2-lane, road with paved shoulder on all sides of the proposed bridge	Existing site is a 20', 2-lane road with no shoulder.
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Annual Avg Daily Traffic (veh/hr/day):	Design/Future: 355	Year: 2045	Existing: 290	Year: 2025	
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General Project Narrative: (Description of Minimization of Water Quality Impacts)	The purpose of this project is to replace Bridge #100424 in Buncombe County after damages from Hurricane Helene. Roadway improvements were minimized to reduce impacts to maximum extent practicable. A ditch was added to the northwest edge of the bridge to collect roadway drainage and reduce deck runoff. Deck drainage is conveyed to 2GIs on the south side of the bridge and is outletted through a rip-rap pad on the southwest side of the bridge.				
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North Carolina Department of Transportation

Highway Stormwater Program
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR NCDOT PROJECTS

(Version 3.02; Released April 23, 2024)

WBS Element:	TIP/Proj No.: DF18313.2011444		County(ies): Buncombe	Page	2	of	2
General Project Information							
Waterbody Information							
Surface Water Body (1):	Flat Creek		NCDWR Stream Index No.:	Angela B. Pridgen, PE			
NCDWR Surface Water Classification for Water Body		Primary Classification:	Class C				
		Supplemental Classification:	Trout Waters (Tr)				
Other Stream Classification:	None						
Impairments:	None						
Aquatic T&E Species?	No	Comments:					
NRTR Stream ID:	-		Buffer Rules in Effect:	N/A			
Project Includes Bridge Spanning Water Body?	Yes	Deck Drains Discharge Over Buffer?	N/A	Dissipator Pads Provided in Buffer?	No		
Deck Drains Discharge Over Water Body?	No	(If yes, provide justification in the General Project Narrative)		(If yes, describe in the General Project Narrative; if no, justify in the General Project Narrative)			
(If yes, provide justification in the General Project Narrative)							
Surface Water Body (2):			NCDWR Stream Index No.:				
NCDWR Surface Water Classification for Water Body		Primary Classification:					
		Supplemental Classification:					
Other Stream Classification:							
Impairments:							
Aquatic T&E Species?		Comments:					
NRTR Stream ID:			Buffer Rules in Effect:				
Project Includes Bridge Spanning Water Body?		Deck Drains Discharge Over Buffer?		Dissipator Pads Provided in Buffer?			
Deck Drains Discharge Over Water Body?		(If yes, provide justification in the General Project Narrative)		(If yes, describe in the General Project Narrative; if no, justify in the General Project Narrative)			
(If yes, provide justification in the General Project Narrative)							
Surface Water Body (3):			NCDWR Stream Index No.:				
NCDWR Surface Water Classification for Water Body		Primary Classification:					
		Supplemental Classification:					
Other Stream Classification:							
Impairments:							
Aquatic T&E Species?		Comments:					
NRTR Stream ID:			Buffer Rules in Effect:				
Project Includes Bridge Spanning Water Body?		Deck Drains Discharge Over Buffer?		Dissipator Pads Provided in Buffer?			
Deck Drains Discharge Over Water Body?		(If yes, provide justification in the General Project Narrative)		(If yes, describe in the General Project Narrative; if no, justify in the General Project Narrative)			
(If yes, provide justification in the General Project Narrative)							

SURFACE WATER IMPACTS

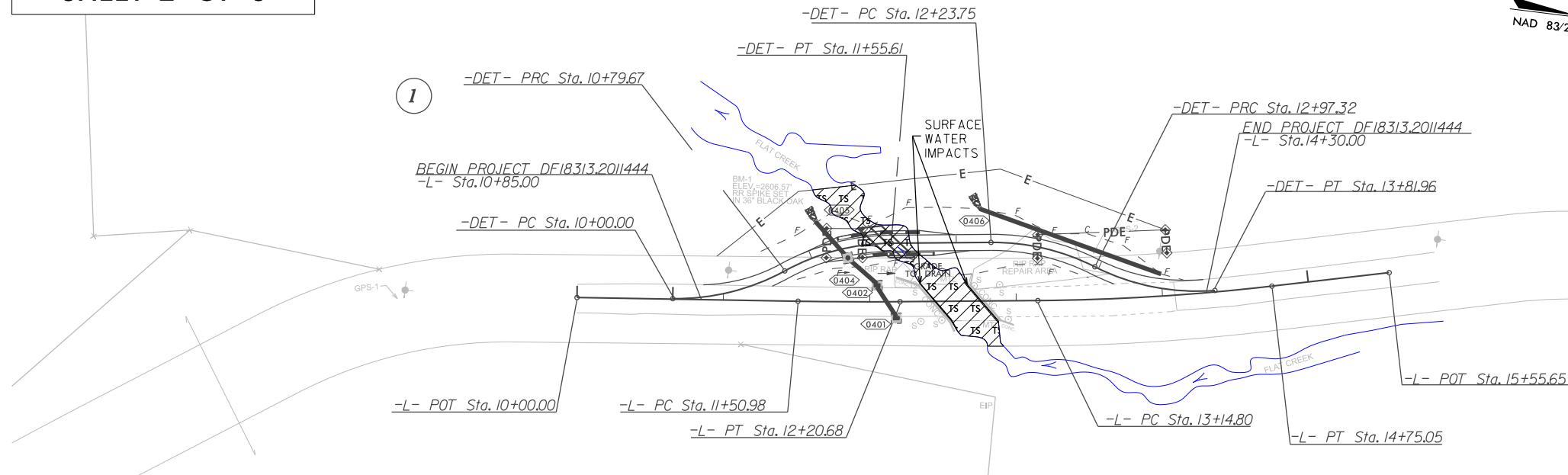
TEMPORARY SURFACE WATER IMPACTS

**PERMIT DRAWING
SHEET 2 OF 6**

NAD 83/2011

1

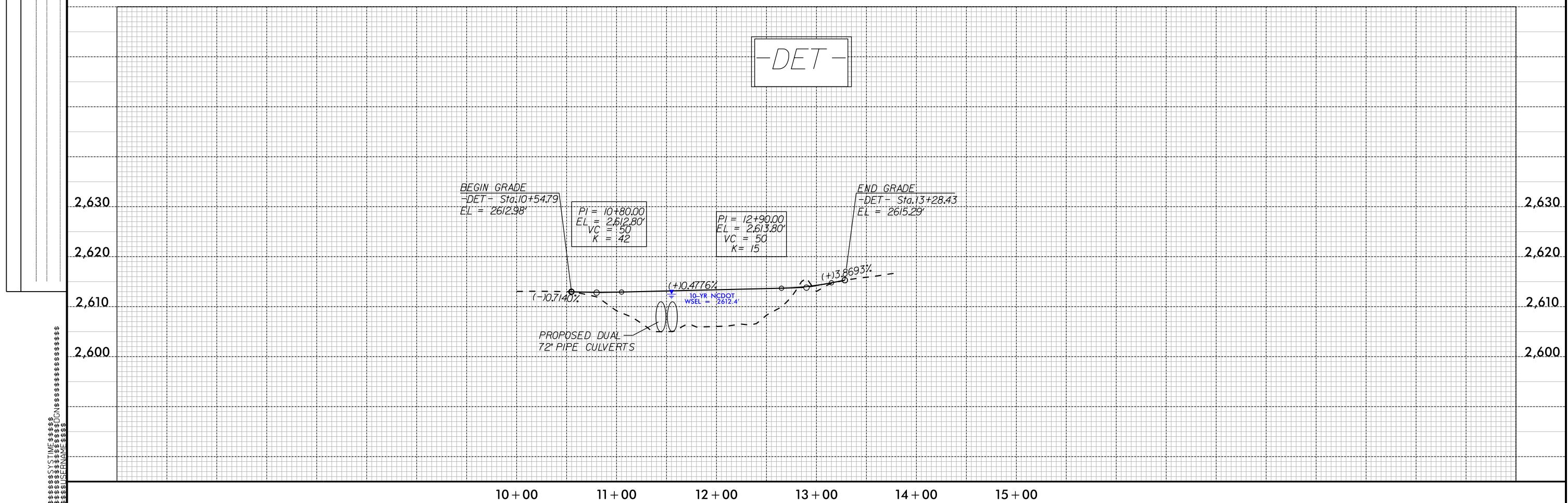
PROJECT REFERENCE NO.		SHEET NO.
DF18313.2011444		2B-1
RW SHEET NO.		
ROADWAY DESIGN ENGINEER		HYDRAULICS ENGINEER



-DET-			
PI Sta 10+40.75	PI Sta 11+18.43	PI Sta 12+61.25	PI Sta 13+40.74
$\Delta = 29^{\circ} 38' 27.6''$ (LT)	$\Delta = 28^{\circ} 15' 13.9''$ (RT)	$\Delta = 27^{\circ} 22' 21.2''$ (RT)	$\Delta = 31^{\circ} 29' 22.6''$ (LT)
$D = 37^{\circ} 12' 18.2''$			
$L = 79.67'$	$L = 75.94'$	$L = 73.57'$	$L = 84.64'$
$T = 40.75'$	$T = 38.76'$	$T = 37.50'$	$T = 43.42'$
$R = 154.00'$	$R = 154.00'$	$R = 154.00'$	$R = 154.00'$

FOR -L- PLAN & PROFILE, SHEET 4

REVISIONS



 SURFACE WATER IMPACTS

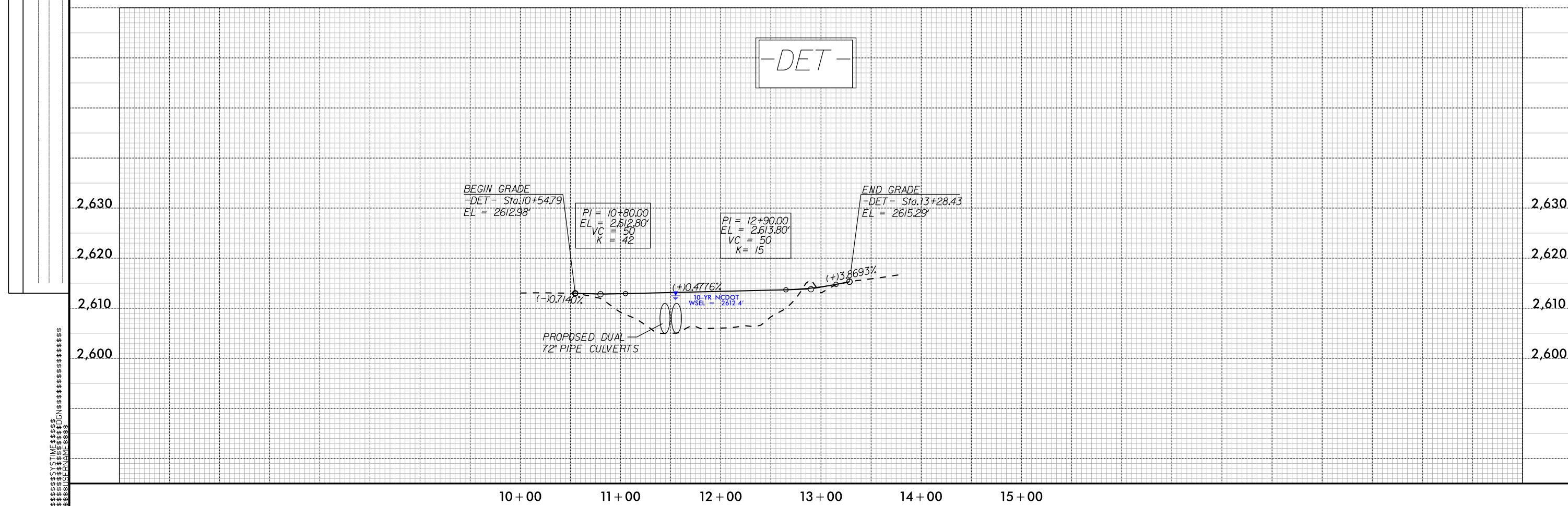
TEMPORARY SURFACE WATER IMPACT

**PERMIT DRAWING
SHEET 3 OF 6**

-DET-			
PI Sta 10+40.75	PI Sta 11+18.43	PI Sta 12+61.25	PI Sta 13+40.74
$\Delta = 29^\circ 38' 27.6''$ (LT)	$\Delta = 28^\circ 15' 13.9''$ (RT)	$\Delta = 27^\circ 22' 21.2''$ (RT)	$\Delta = 31^\circ 29' 22.6''$ (RT)
$D = 37^\circ 12' 18.2''$			
$L = 79.67'$	$L = 75.94'$	$L = 73.57'$	$L = 84.64'$
$T = 40.75'$	$T = 38.76'$	$T = 37.50'$	$T = 43.42'$
$R = 154.00'$	$R = 154.00'$	$R = 154.00'$	$R = 154.00'$

FOR -L- PLAN & PROFILE, SHEET 4

REVIEWS



WETLAND AND SURACE WATER IMPACTS SUMMARY

*Rounded totals are sum of actual impacts

NOTES:

Permanent impacts from bank stabilization are parallel

NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

1/05/2026

BUNCOMBE

DF18313.2011444